Requirement of cotton in textile industry

565. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of cotton in the textile industry in the country at present and the quantity available for domestic textile sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that the textile industry has reduced its production by 25 per cent due to non-availability of cotton;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to impose restriction on the export of cotton to meet the demands of the domestic textile sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) has estimated total requirement of cotton in the textile industry in the country at present is 230 lakh bales and the quantity available for domestic textile sector is 290 lakh bales.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Steps to resolve problems of textile industry

566. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to dumping of Chinese garments in India the materials prepared by small weavers in the country are not being sold in the market;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the livelihood of these small weavers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that entrepreneurs engaged in domestic textile industry are facing the shortage of resources because banks do not provide them loan at concessional rate; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide funds as well as to solve the other problems of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Almost all garments items, including garments imported from China, are covered under the mixed duty structure *i.e. ad-valorem* or specific duty, on 'whichever is higher' basis. Specific duty has been imposed to protect the domestic textiles industry from cheaper imports.